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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,263	12/28/2000	David S. Bormann	42390.P9734	1227

7590

10/27/2003

John P. Ward  
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Los Angeles, CA 90025

EXAMINER
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DU, THUAN N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2185

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/752,263

Applicant(s)

BORMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Thuan N. Du

Art Unit

2185

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

### *Double Patenting*

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-15 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of copending Application No. 09/752,062. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the invention can be applied for both serial ATA device and parallel ATA device.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 2185

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Regarding claims 1, 7 and 12, the step of “switching a serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) device” is not clearly understandable because it does not clearly pointed out where the SATA device is switched to.

7. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the ACPI S state". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

8. Claims 5 and 6 recite the limitation "the SATA". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

9. Claim 15 recites the limitation "the SATA device". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

#### ***Claim Objections***

10. Claims 7, 8 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities: the citation “a serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA)” does not have a clear meaning. For further examination, the examiner considers SATA is SATA device. Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2185

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs et al.

[Jacobs] (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,714).

13. Regarding claim 1, Jacobs teaches a method for operating an ATA device (CD drive)

comprising the steps of:

determining a first system Advanced Configuration and Power Interface Specification (ACPI) state ("on" or "off" state) [col. 4, lines 24-29]; and

switching an Advanced Technology Attachment (ATA) device based upon the ACPI state (disable or enable) [col. 4, lines 24-29].

Jacobs does not explicitly teach the ATA device is a serial ATA device. One of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized that the teaching of Jacobs obviously applicable to any type of ATA device, parallel or serial ATA device.

14. Regarding claim 2, Jacobs teaches the ACPI states are S0 (on) and S5 (off).

15. Regarding claims 3 and 4, Jacobs teaches the switching is between the first system (main POST) and a subsystem (mini POST) [col. 4, line 29 et seq.]

16. Regarding claims 5 and 6, Jacobs teaches the ATA device is switched to the first system if the ACPI state is S0 [col. 4, lines 38-55], and the ATA device is switched to the subsystem if the ACPI state is S5 [col. 4, line 56 et seq.]

17. Regarding claims 7 and 8, Jacobs teaches the claimed method steps. Therefore, Jacobs teaches the instructions for carrying out the claimed method steps.

Art Unit: 2185

18. Regarding claims 9-15, Jacobs teaches the claimed method steps. Therefore, Jacobs teaches the apparatus to implement the claimed method steps.

***Conclusion***

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuan N. Du whose telephone number is (703) 308-6292 or via e-mail, **thuan.du@uspto.gov**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-9717.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202.

The fax number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II  
2121 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Thuan N. Du  
October 17, 2003

*Dennis M. Butler*  
**Dennis M. Butler**  
**Primary Examiner**